

JORDAN TIMES

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What are the priorities?

UNRWA begins to trim fat from 1979 budget

By Ron Cathell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 26—Every year about this time the commissioner general and the regional directors of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) meet to discuss a painful problem—which expenditures to cut from the annual UNRWA budget.

It is a chronic problem inherent in the operational system of the agency. Drawing up each budget is accompanied by the lurking certainty that the budget can't be met. The United Nations doesn't allow UNRWA to go in the red or borrow money and the agency must rely solely on donations from governments and organisations for funding. So it never accurately knows at the outset of each year just how much money will be available. Each budget is drafted on the basis of services UNRWA would like to provide, rather than what it knows it can offer.

Last week, UNRWA Commissioner General Thomas McElhiney and the regional directors met as usual to consider which services must be included in the budget and which services, in order of lowest priority, would be excluded unless additional funding is received.

But this year's budget problem is substantially different. UNRWA is faced with its largest deficit ever—\$38 million. The primary cause for the record mark, according to UNRWA Director in Jordan, Mr. John Tanner, is cost increases. To offer the same services this year as last year will cost about \$30 million more. This year's budget calls for \$162 million in expenditures, but the agency has only \$124 million. The 1979 budget provides for improvements in services, especially in education, which will require the additional balance, if it is available.

Whether inflation or some other culprit is responsible for the cost increases, the deficit problem remains. And notwithstanding any major unexpected donations, the only way to remedy the situation is by surgery.

But to disclose all the details of earmarked cutbacks at this time could cause great disruption in the agency, Mr. Tanner said. If employees of a certain department knew they were the first to go, they might quit, only to have a government donate the necessary funds at the last minute which would have kept the workers employed.

The programmes this year which will be funded in full, and drain the budget of its \$124 million, are health services, relief and education. Health services

account for 14 per cent of the budget and include clinics and staff, sanitation of camps and preventive medicine, especially in maternal and child care.

Relief services are "received in kind," that is, food. Instead of cash, some countries prefer to send food—flour, rice, milk—appraised at a monetary value. These "in kind" donations have been steadily decreasing over the years. The relief services account for 32 per cent of the budget.

Education takes the lion's share of the budget—54 per cent. Of the agency's 16,600 employees, 11,000 are teachers with 307,000 students under their guidance in primary and preparatory schools. There are also 4,500 students in two-year vocational and teacher training centres.

Like last year, the seventh, eighth and ninth years of education (preparatory education for secondary school) cannot be offered beyond May because there isn't enough money. Although preparatory education after May is one of the services earmarked to be cut from the budget, the first funds to be received above the \$124 million will be used to keep this programme going. An estimated \$10 million is needed.

It's possible this amount will be received. But if the last four years offer any indication of how much money above the \$124 million will be donated, UNRWA will be extremely fortunate to receive the needed \$10 million.

The percentage of contributions to total financial needs of the agency has been steadily declining. In 1975, 96 per cent of these needs were received. By 1978, this figure had dropped to 85.3 per cent. If the pattern continues, as expected, the agency might receive only 81 or 82 per cent, or even less, of the financing it needs for 1979. According to this projection the agency will receive a total of between \$131.2 million and \$132.8 million, a bit short of the additional amount needed to keep the preparatory education going, not to mention the other services lower on the priority list to be cut.

All of these latter items couldn't be described by Mr. Tanner because of the possible repercussions throughout the agency. But he did list some cutbacks, besides preparatory education, which were decided at the meeting last week. The areas in which cutbacks will take place are listed below in order of priority to receive the first available funding:

1) improvements in education; 2) improvements in agency facilities, such as paint for buildings, floor repairs, and drainage and road-work in the camps; 3) improve-

ments in staff conditions, such as better salaries and benefits; 4) increasing relief for refugees, such as food stuffs.

Because the agency is receiving less and less food contributions each year, it must spend precious cash to make up the shortage. The refugees might not be very happy to see that increasing their food rations is lower on the list of spending priorities than fresh paint for the buildings. Last year each refugee received 6.7 kilos of flour. This year they will receive 5 kilos each.

"There's nothing new in these reductions. They've been going on over several years but it's now more noticeable," Mr. Tanner said.

Nevertheless, the refugees are angry. "They threatened to strike earlier this year and not take any food at all," Mr. Tanner said. "They want the full programme with nothing cut. They'd have us provide all the services in full until we ran out of money and then just collapsed. No more UNRWA."

The refugees argue that the agency has always been plagued with budgetary problems and always will be. Yet it always manages somehow. They think the agency should provide full services, without any cutbacks, until the money runs out, Mr. Tanner said. At that critical point, the refugees argue, a cry for help will draw a redeeming donation from a rich Gulf state. And if not, then the agency simply ceases to exist.

The UNRWA administration, Mr. Tanner said, can't take the risk that such a contribution would come in time. And they don't want to see the agency cease to exist.

Such a situation nearly occurred in the last quarter of 1975. The regional directors were informed at the time that the agency would collapse in five weeks if additional funding wasn't received. There was only enough money left in the budget to keep the agency alive another five weeks. The directors were instructed to prepare termination of service notices for all employees.

Within a few hours of the deadline when the notices were to have been delivered, the agency unexpectedly received a \$5 million congressional donation from the United States which carried it through till 1976.

Every year the agency faces the possibility of collapse. But it does manage, partly despite its inherent budgetary problems and partly because of them. When the general budget is drawn, it is known that it can't be met. So each operational budget is padded with additional cost needs so that the basic needs can at least be met. This requires that every year the fat must be trimmed from the budget to equal the donations.

"If we operated on a balanced budget everyone would think we had no problems and wouldn't give us any attention," Mr. Tanner said. "They'd think we weren't in desperate need of funds and so we'd receive even less than we do now."

Low-cost children's stores Higher Council for Childcare proposed in new draft laws

By Breda Finegan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Plans for introducing long-term projects for children during International Year of the Child are going along quite nicely and it's not only children who will benefit but parents as well. One thing to please them will be the establishment of a chain of shops which will sell essential items for children at much reduced rates in comparison with market prices. This will be a great relief for parents struggling to cope with ever steep prices because of import taxes on essential items.

As well as the new shops it has also been decided to form a Higher Council for Childcare, to take responsibility for all aspects of childcare policy in the country.

Dr. Izzat Jaradat, secretary general of the Jordan National Committee for International Year of the Child (JNCIYC) told the Jordan Times that two draft laws concerning these ventures have been drawn up and sent to the Department of Social Affairs at the Ministry of Labour for a reading before going on to the Cabinet for endorsement.

The Higher Council for Childcare, to be headed by the prime minister, will be responsible for preparing a national plan for childcare including health and educational aspects, for interpreting that plan into integrated programmes and for carrying out studies and research into childcare in Jordan in order to plan future programmes.

According to the draft law the council will have the authority to examine all existing children's services in the country — government and private — with an eye to improvement.

The Higher Council for Childcare will have 15 members, representing the relevant ministries and individuals from the private sector, who will decide on policy. The actual bulk of the work will fall on the shoulders of an executive committee, also to be formed of representatives from ministries and the private sector.

The second draft law concerning the children's shops, grew from the initiative of the General Union of Voluntary Societies who mooted the idea early in this year of trying to get toys and essential items for children brought into the country tax-free.

It has been decided by the national committee to follow the idea through in a big way. According to the draft law some 20 "Child Shops" will be set up throughout the country — especially in underprivileged areas — during International Year of the Child.

The draft law says "any" child, regardless of nationality, living in Jordan and up to the age of 17 years can benefit from the shops.

Imported goods will be sold tax-free and Jordanian goods will be sold at cost prices. The shop will provide the basic needs of children: food, clothes and toys and there will also be goods in stock for the mother-to-be.

The General Union of Voluntary Societies will be responsible for the shops and it is hoped they will be aided by an interest-free loan from the government.

The third long-term project which has been agreed upon is one called "From Child to Child" and is an educational programme to be introduced to elementary schools. This programme is all about measuring and the child. Children will be encouraged to measure and record their height, weight and other personal information—like for instance shoe size.

Hopefully this programme will help children develop concentration, skills in arithmetic and also an appreciation of nutrition and the way the body grows.

The Ministry of Education will set up a special course for elemen-

tary school teachers leading in introducing this programme. On the short-term, a competition has been planned for a week in April. One hundred fifty drawings and paintings will be chosen by a jury committee.

Schools were invited to exhibit children's work, putting their drawings onto and paper. The winners will be under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and children participating will receive medals for their efforts.

Cabinet endorses Kuwait loan to Arab Potash Co.

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—The Cabinet yesterday endorsed a million loan agreement between the Arab Potash Company and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The sides last month signed the agreement for the loan which will be used for the purchase of machinery needed at the potash company site near the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

Coming & Going

Arab Mining Co. director off to Riyadh

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—Director General of the Arab Mining Company Thabet Al Taher left for Riyadh yesterday to attend a meeting of the Arab Economic Council which started today. During the three-day meeting participants will discuss among other topics Arab economic strategy and a unified Arab draft agreement on investment; they will also review joint Arab industrial and mining projects. Mr. Al Taher said.

Jordan Medical Assn. leader leaves for Damascus meeting

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—President of the Jordanian Medical Association Dr. Hassan Khreis left for Damascus today to take part in the executive bureau meeting of the Arab Union of Doctors which starts in the Syrian capital tomorrow. Topics for discussion include the union's financial affairs, activities of the union's various committees and preparations for the world medical conference to be held in Amman next April, Dr. Khreis said. Taking part in the several-day meeting are delegates from Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Tunisia.

UNESCO representative arrives in Amman

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—A representative of the director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Mr. Mahmoud Al Sa'di, arrived here today for a several-day visit to Jordan. In a statement upon arrival, Mr. Sa'di said he will have talks with Minis-

ter of Culture and Education Dr. Abdul Majid al-Najjar. UNESCO and Jordanian educational fields discuss preparations for the meeting of the Arab Union of Doctors which starts next November. The interest in the conference will be to discuss ways of future in the Arab world. Sa'di said the representative of UNESCO will be an international conference these days for ministers around the world.

Arab Wings office meeting in U.S.

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—Deputy Head Wings Angel Al-Hadi left for Washington today for the meeting of the Arab Wings office, which is open in Florida. The Eastern company of the Wings office is taking part in the conference during the three days. It will try to benefit from the experience of world chartering planes in emergency cases. Mr. Al-Hadi said.

Ministry of Education secretary visits U.S.

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Aqash left for Washington today for a ten-day visit. He will be visiting the U.S. to study the polytechnic schools in Open University, to modern educational order to apply them in institutions in Jordan.

Sabre-rattling

IF THE UNITED STATES is trying to create conditions conducive to peace in the Middle East—or even merely to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel—we fail to see what it hopes to achieve by the sabre-rattling statements made during the weekend by Defence Secretary Harold Brown and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger.

The two men hinted that the U.S. was ready to use military force in order to protect America's interests in the Gulf and to guarantee the flow of Middle East oil.

Although these astonishing statements purport to come in response to the events in Iran, what they demonstrate is that America has failed to learn the lesson of Iran. The Iranian revolutionary movement is not only an Islamic phenomenon: it is above all a nationalist movement. It is as such that it has stirred enthusiasm elsewhere in the region. It is not from the standpoint of religion that the Ayatollah Khomeini has declared Iran's support for Arab, and specifically Palestinian, rights against Israel, but from the standpoint of the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist stand adopted by the new Iranian regime.

Moreover, the new Iranian government has declared itself firmly against any attempts by any outside power—and that goes for the Soviet Union as well as for the United States—to interfere politically and militarily in the Middle East. This has also struck a responsive chord in the Arab World, which more and more sees the American-engineered Camp David process as an attempt by the United States to secure its own interests in this area at the expense of the interests of the people of the region themselves—particularly the Palestinians (who are accustomed to, but no less bitter about, being considered dispensable by previous imperial and colonial powers).

Egypt's expressed eagerness to act as the local agent for these American interests, to the extent of dispatching its armed forces to distant trouble spots, has thus raised huge suspicions among Arabs, not excluding Egyptians themselves.

There is no one in the Middle East who should welcome the prospect of American armed intervention. Mr. Brown should know that, having just visited the area and talked with Arab leaders. As for Mr. Schlesinger, he continues to act as if there is no foreseeable diminution of the profligate American thirst for Middle East oil. Instead of launching American gunboats in the direction of the Gulf, he should be boosting urgent efforts to develop alternative sources of energy for power-hungry America. The Saudis would, we are sure, be the first to agree with that.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Under the heading "A return to the Big Stick Policy" AL RA'I Monday charges that the U.S. is insisting on letting the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty pass through willy-nilly, and has already begun to put its new concept of security in the Middle East into effect through an open Military participation to preserve the American interests in the region.

The newspaper says that an American formula for a compromise solution which was agreed upon in Camp David Two was reportedly due to be presented to the Egyptian and Israeli governments for study. This clearly indicates the advent of a new and extremely dangerous stage in the area, Al Ra'i adds.

Jordan's call for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the Israeli measures to annex and Judaize Arab occupied land has come to reveal the alarming deviation of the American supervised Egyptian-Israeli talks from any realistic concept of peace in the Middle East, the newspaper writes.

Al Ra'i concludes by warning that the U.S. administration would commit a grave mistake if, in order to preserve its interests and those of its western allies in the area, it brandished the "big stick" or exercised intimidation through the Israeli military power.

AL DUSTOUR deplors the current border fighting between North and South Yemen. It calls on the Arab countries, represented by the Arab League to "do the impossible to persuade San'a and Aden to stop this fratricidal dispute which," the newspaper thinks, "is being fought by instigation of foreign hands."

Clubs, Societies, Sports Groups-- let us know what you are doing

Our "What's going on" section needs YOUR help if it is going to be a success. It's the news of your clubs, your exhibitions, your meetings and outings that are open to the public which appear in "What's going on". Help us to help you publicise your public events: charity bazaars, school open days, concerts, commercial exhibitions—our readers are interested in your event.

Please write us at P.O. Box 6710, telephone 67171 or even call in at our offices on the Amman-Sweleh road between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and tell us what's going on.

The Jordan Times will publish free listings on the day of the event.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

English Film

The British Council presents Blake Edwards' "The Return of the Pink Panther" starring Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau. The film starts at 6:00 p.m., and tickets reserving free entry are available at the reception desk.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents a film based on a story by Ingeborg Bachmann entitled "Drei Wege zum See." The film is directed by Michael Haneke, and will start at 8:00 p.m. Subtitles in English.

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ENGLISH CLASSES - 1979

THIRD TERM

The British Council is starting classes for the third term on Monday, March 5th. If you are interested in attending English classes, please call at the British Council for information. Registration and placement tests take place from:

Monday, Feb. 26th to Saturday, March 3rd

From: 9-12; 4-5.

Children's scheduled prayers for in Jordan may be drawn in advance

Jordan Times
If reporter

Feb. 26—The post-drought this year is a concern across the country. The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that rain will be held throughout Jordan. Those who have been in the country for some time will be able to see the difference in the amount of rain. The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that rain will be held throughout Jordan. Those who have been in the country for some time will be able to see the difference in the amount of rain.

let endorse to Arab

26 (JNA)—The Jordanian government has announced that it will endorse the Arab League's decision to accept the 1967 borders. The decision was made by the Arab League's Council of Heads of State and Government in Cairo. The Jordanian government has announced that it will endorse the Arab League's decision to accept the 1967 borders.

Iran

(Continued from page 1)

Iranian morning news reported today that the report of Hossein Naderi, who was in Iran's second city of Isfahan, was correct. The new government has said it hopes to get exports flowing again within two weeks. Hassan Nazih appointed by the government last week, went to Abadan on his first trip as NIOC chairman. There have been reports that some militant left-wing workers at Abadan, the world's biggest refinery, were opposed to a resumption of exports until all of Iran's international oil contracts had been revised. The aim of such revision would be to secure more favourable terms for the country's products. Anti-Shah oil workers went on strike last November as part of a nationwide campaign to force the Shah off his throne.

ODAY'S WEATHER

Weather will be fine with light and variable winds becoming moderate to fresh at times. In Aqaba Gulf there will be tions with northerly moderate winds gradually becoming moderate and with calm seas becoming rough.

	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	5	23
Irbid	12	28
Jericho	9	25
Haifa	4	24

IMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

OF COMPANY	Par value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	7,349	6,570	6,590	6,570
Cement Factories	JD 10,000	1,080	14,400	—	14,400
Phosphate Mines	JD 1,000	1,833	2,180	2,180	2,200
Bank	JD 1,000	1,725	1,050	1,050	1,160
Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	459	1,020	1,010	1,020
Jawa Development and	JD 1,000	200	1,970	2,040	2,000
Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	3,484	1,340	1,350	1,340
Ceramic Industries	JD 1,000	139	930	950	930
Tobacco And Cigarette Co.	JD 1,000	288	—	—	7,600
Aluminium Co.	JD 1,000	1,248	960	970	960
Al, Commercial And	JD 1,000	393	2,520	—	2,520
Al, Lime and Silicate Bricks	JD 5,000	920	—	4,650	4,600
Al, Jordan Co.	JD 5,000	1,450	7,220	7,300	7,250
International Investment	JD 1,000	210	—	—	1,050
Trading Co.	JD 1,000	463	710	710	710
Ab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	525	2,100	2,100	2,100
Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	210	690	750	700
Spinning and Weaving Co.	JD 1,000	290	18,150	18,150	—
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 5,000	—	—	—	—

Volume traded, Monday, Feb. 26: JD 22,266
Number of shares traded: 10,143

	Par Value	Volume Traded	Number Traded	Selling Price
Government Development Bonds	JD 5,000	150	30	5,030
	JD 5,000	388	77	5,050
	JD 10,000	1,022	100	10,220

Volume traded: JD 1,560

The Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan
The Jordan Valley Authority

Grading, Packing and Marketing Centre
Miscellaneous Equipments and Materials
Addendum No. 1

Notice of Change in Delivery Dates.

The Jordan Valley Authority has revised the delivery date for Miscellaneous Equipment and Materials as follows:

Group 1 : September 15 1979
Group 2 : September 30 1979
Group 3 : October 15 1979

Omar Abdallah Daghkan
(President)
J.V.A.

Feb. 26th 1979

NCC proposes complaints by correspondence bureau

By Awni Bader
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (J.T.)—The establishment of a complaint bureau to which Jordanian citizens can send their grievances and see them answered by mail was one of five proposals which the National Consultative Council put to the government at the council's regular session today.

Other proposals included asphaltting roads, extending electricity to the villages in the Bani Hamideh area, permitting shopkeepers to take up as much as 20 cms of the pavement in front of their stores to display samples of their goods and allowing tractor trailers transporting water or agricultural produce to use the village and rural roads.

The council heard the government's reply on a motion by Shamseddine Tash on the necessity of erecting shelters for passengers along stopping points of cars and buses on the Zarqa-Ruseifeh-Amman road. In his reply Mayor of Amman Ma'n Abu Nuwar said a comprehensive study on this subject is being conducted by the technical committee of the Amman regional corporation which covers all car stops in the region.

The council further heard a reply from the minister of agriculture on an enquiry by Sultan Majid Al Adwan regarding banning export of local broad beans and allowing their import from abroad. The reply said that the ministry has banned the import

but not the export of this commodity of which 50 million tons had been exported until Feb. 4.

On the other hand the council approved an amended law for civil service pensions for 1979 and an amended law for the Central Bank of Jordan for 1979.

During the debate on the last draft law the rapporteur of the Committee for Financial Affairs Mohammad Al Farhan Al Ubaidat admonished council members who dwell on debate without justification but finally agree on texts as they are received from the government or from the council's committees.

The meeting was adjourned without the council being able to complete debating the items on its agenda.

Jordan requests Security Council support

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim said here today Israel "has so far expropriated 27 per cent of the total area of the occupied West Bank."

Speaking to heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Amman, in the course of explaining Jordan's call last Friday for a Security Council meeting on Israel's colonisation policy, Mr. Ibrahim said the expropriated area was the "most fertile" in the West Bank.

Mr. Ibrahim said Israel has so far established 115 settlements in the occupied Arab territories, of which 68 are on the West Bank of Jordan.

Mr. Ibrahim said "grave dangers are inherent in the aggressive Israeli policy which aims at altering the Arab character of the occupied territories."

By calling a Security Council meeting, Jordan "aims at urging the World Community to interfere and stop Israel's expansionist policy," he added.

He requested the diplomats to convey Jordan's attitude to their governments and asked them for support of the Jordanian stand on this issue.

King Hussein opens centre for the deaf and dumb



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan speaks with citizens and officials during his tour of villages near Amman Monday.

Prince Hassan tours villages around Amman

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—His Highness Crown Prince Hassan today made an inspection tour of several villages in the Amman area.

In his meeting with citizens the Crown Prince received requests for better health, educational transport and postal services as well as water supply and electricity

in their regions. He urged citizens to offer more cooperation with the authorities in seeking solutions to problems facing their villages. Prince Hassan later called at the Talbiyeh refugee camp and acquainted himself with the various public services offered to the camp where nearly 7,000 people live.

Accompanying the Crown Prince on his tour were Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Mayor of Amman Ma'n Abu Nuwar and several officials.

LOCAL

EXCHANGE

RATES

U.S. dollar	297.00/299.00
U.K. sterling	598.00/602.00
West German mark	160.70/160.90
Swiss franc	178.40/179.50
French franc	69.50/69.90
Italian lire	(for every 100) 35.30/35.50
Japanese yen	(for every 100) 147.50/148.40
Dutch guilder	148.60/149.50
Belgian franc	101.70/102.30
(for every ten)	68.20/68.60
Swedish crown	

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People

...in the news

Among the most distinguished visitors spent in Amman this week was Dr. George Tomeh, Syrian ambassador to the United Nations for over eight years before retiring from the diplomatic service. Dr. and Mrs. Tomeh were here on a brief visit to daughter Hala, a special education teacher, from their current home in Kuwait where Dr. Tomeh works as advisor on international relations to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Although Hala has lived in Amman for two years now this is only Dr. Tomeh's second ever trip to Jordan—the first being a quick 24 hour visit last year. The Tomehs seemed rather favourably impressed with life in Amman. Maybe we will see more of them?

The medical events at the Professional Association Building were unusually festive last week. Flocking in for Tuesday's weekly seminar were physicians, pediatricians, medical students, nursing students and even surgeons, some carrying extra chairs into the packed lecture room and others resigning themselves to standing. Stressing the inadequate effort of doctors in Jordan to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of rheumatic fever, Dr. Jalal Hadadin, bacteriologist from the

King Hussein Medical Centre, Dr. Najwa Bulos, pediatrician from the Jordan University Hospital and Dr. Ahd Shaker, internist from the Bashir Hospital, discussed the most recent studies on the prevention of rheumatic fever through the treatment of sore throat with good old penicillin. Despite an inverted slide, some heated arguments and numerous sore feet, the audience enjoyed filling their mind before besieging the tea table to fill their stomachs.

On Wednesday an interesting but frequently underdiagnosed and undertreated condition, appendicitis in pregnancy, was the topic that attracted an abnormally large audience to the bi-weekly medical Journal Club. Gynaecologist Dr. Mahmoud Amer and general surgeon Dr. Ahmad Sroujeh, both from the University of Jordan Hospital, discussed the few cases they had encountered and the conclusions they had drawn from their experience. Dr. Sroujeh then reviewed the scarce literature published on this subject. He punctuated his talk with repeated remarks expressing his amazement at having to speak from the lecturer's stand instead of the usual cosy little circle of chairs!

13 new factories to get licences

AMMAN, Feb. 26 (JNA)—The planning committee of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce today decided to grant licences to 13 new factories whose total capital amounts to nearly JD 1,760,296. Some 504 workmen and employees will be working at the new factories.

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JORDAN TIMES

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Candidate must be:

- Native Arabic speaker with fluent idiomatic English
- Graduate of an English-speaking college or university
- Willing to work nights, six days a week
- Able to type at least 30 words a minute

Previous experience in newspapers, radio or television would be a decided advantage.

Genuinely interested candidates should contact Mr. Lee on 67171, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., on Monday, to arrange interview and test.

She is helping to build a new city

By Pat McDonnell
Photos by Haytham Kawakibi
Special to the Jordan Times

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth in a continuing series on Women of Syria.

DAMASCUS—When people say Raghdha Kurdi is dynamite, they mean it literally. She is one of a 10-person engineering team that daily blows up Mount Kassoun—the limestone mountain that has towered above Damascus since time immemorial—for a massive development project.

Ms. Kurdi was graduated in 1962 from a five-year civil engineering program at Aleppo University. "There were only eight women students in the Faculty of Engineering in 1962," she said. "However, my sister was graduated in 1958 from the same school and she went on to Manchester, England, to get her M.Sc. in concrete engineering."

From 1967 to 1975, the fetching Ms. Kurdi worked as an engineer on roads, bridges and buildings for the Municipality of Aleppo. Her work entailed regular visits to the Aleppo airport and it was there that she met a dashing Syrian Air Force Colonel, Walid Shaban, who holds aeronautical engineering degrees from Texas University.

Their marriage has produced three children: Samir, 11; Reima, 10; and Hani, four and a half, who already reads Arabic and English primers.

In 1975, Col. Shaban took a position as technical director of Syrian Arab Airlines in Damascus, he was recently appointed to

its board of directors. Soon after the family moved to Damascus, Ms. Kurdi joined the Mount Kassoun project.

"I disliked working inside an office on master plans," she said, "and I found myself drawn to becoming involved in projects that were excavating the mountain for roads."

Actually, what happened was that within 20 days of joining the Mount Kassoun project, Ms. Kurdi had donned a hard hat and hiking boots and she was blowing up the mountain.

Said her husband: "Raghdha more or less broke the ground for other women who've been hired as field engineers. Now, in addition to her work at Mount Kassoun, Raghdha is in charge of clean-up crews for construction projects throughout Damascus. You might say she's cleaning up the city instead of personally cleaning up her house—a servant does that."

Col. Shaban is obviously proud of his wife—and so he should be. She manages to be a beautiful woman, a good mother, a top-notch household manager and a first-rate engineer.

"We both may be engineers, but Walid is in aeronautics. I'm in civil engineering," she said. "Our work is different, but our minds work on the same track."

At Mount Kassoun, Ms. Kurdi is now one of five women engineers—not too bad considering there are a total of 10 engineers in a project that employs 800 workmen.

Her primary job at Mount Kassoun is to supervise four engineers in addition to preparing maps and reports for government

bureau dealing with water, electricity, phones, roads and buildings.

"I'm really not that unusual," she said modestly, "come, let me show you my female counterparts who are really roughing it."

With that, we jumped into her VW beetle and drove up the mountain into an unpaved region of Mount Kassoun where she introduced me to another Raghdha: Raghdha Berzawi, a 1978 graduate of Damascus University School of Engineering.

Ms. Berzawi arrives in the hinterlands of Mount Kassoun at 6 a.m.—her headquarters is a trailer. She puts in a 10-hour day and when necessary, she takes the wheel of a six-gear truck. In the summer, she's on the job, directing workmen in 44 degree heat. Her assistant is another woman, Wafah Akkad, a graduate surveyor, one of 20 women surveyors on the project.

When asked what an assistant woman surveyor does, Ms. Akkad said: "One of my jobs is to calculate the amount of concrete that is necessary for the road we're excavating."

"There are 30 workmen on this crew and they all feel like brothers to Raghdha," Ms. Kurdi explained. "There is no silliness nor resentment over taking orders from a woman engineer."

Added Ms. Berzawi: "We work as a family, we couldn't get the job done otherwise. The workmen are my friends, they will all come to my wedding next week when I marry another engineer."

Ten hours is the norm for Ms. Kurdi to be on the job, but it's not unusual for her to work 18 hours a day. This happened when the Sheraton Hotel had to meet an opening deadline by July 1 and the government called in the Mount Kassoun engineers to complete the job.

"No matter what my hours, I feel that if it is a road, I'm building that road for my children. If it's a town, I'm building it for the future Damascus my children will know. If it's a clean-up job, it's for the beautification of Damascus," Ms. Kurdi said.

"We are a Third World country, but in ten years, who knows what Syria will be? The sacrifices are worth it."

During the Sheraton clean-up job, Ms. Kurdi worked seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. for 20 days.

"Granted, my husband wasn't

too happy with my absence from the home, but we both looked at the inconvenience from the viewpoint that the opening of the Sheraton Hotel would show the world that Syria can produce."

How does she combine traditional Syrian motherhood with being a career woman?

"All of us are out of the house daily by 7 a.m.," she said. "I leave a bit earlier, but household chores are taken care of the night before."

Ms. Kurdi does the cooking for the week—at least three heavy casseroles—on Friday mornings. Friday afternoons are reserved for family excursions to Bludan, Barada or Abudane.

"A maid comes in daily for three hours to pick up the house, but I do the washing (automatic washer) and ironing on whatever evening friends don't drop in," she said.

The Shabans live in a very large dwelling in the Mezzeh district of Damascus. Col. Shaban was recruited to wallpaper the eight-room house and he discovered he enjoys it. Both engineers redesigned the structure entirely before they moved in. It's nothing for them to entertain 50 at a celebration, nor 20 at a family get-together.

Ms. Kurdi's excellence is to be expected—according to her yearbooks at Aleppo University.

In 1961, she was chosen the "Perfect Girl" of six Egyptian and Syrian Universities: Damascus, Aleppo, Cairo, Alexandria, Asyut and Al-Azhar. She was the cover girl on numerous Arabic publications and was to receive a free trip to Europe until the union was broken between Egypt and Syria. Nonetheless, she and her family have travelled many times to Europe—gratis, thanks to her husband's connections with Syrian Airlines.

It's a super family and perhaps much of its charm comes from the promise of the future that all are striving toward.

Tomorrow on this page: What the Kassoun project is all about.



On the job at Mount Kassoun: (from left) Ali Habbay, Prime Minister; Adib Mulhem, Minister of Presidential Affairs; Kurdi; Elie Nakhle; Basheer Al-Aas, Chief Agricultural Engineer; and Ali Trahebsy, Director of the Mount Kassoun Project.



Family portrait: Reima, 11; Raghdha Kurdi; Col. Walid Shaban, Samir, 11; and Hani 4½.



Raghdha Kurdi prepares tea for visitors in her Mezzeh home.



The great iron ore fields of the Hama region of Western Asia opened in 1966, are no longer a male domain. The men of the north now work side by side with a growing band of women. Assistant Alexis Whitley, Paignton, Britain, is a maker's assistant. (Aps Information Service)

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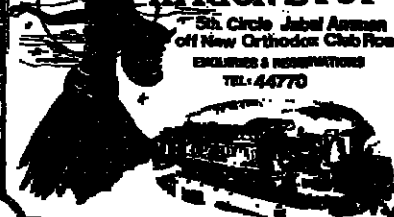
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مكتبة امجد

ST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 27, 1979

Horoscope

by CARROLL BRIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening for you to do for persons who are in some difficulty. Avoid anything of an unpredictable leap cheerful at all times.

Mar. 21 to Apr. 19: Sit down with those you deal with in the days ahead and formulate plans. Your chances are good, so follow them.

Apr. 20 to May 20: Get together with good people you have done your necessary work. You are in a wish that is important to you.

May 21 to June 21: You are now able to make a decision on influential persons who can give you the help you need.

June 22 to July 21: Try to be more understanding of the viewpoints of others and gain their trust. Make personal plans for the future.

July 22 to Aug. 21: Use your intuition and you get results in handling practical problems now. Deepen friendship with an associate.

Aug. 22 to Sept. 22: Study outside affairs that are to you and come up with the right answers. Arguments that will make you feel more dynamic.

Sept. 23 to Oct. 22: Convince associates that a fine plan and gain their cooperation. Use exercise in motion today.

Oct. 23 to Nov. 21: Put new ideas to work show your finest talents to advantage. Avoid one-troublemaker. Be careful of con artists.

Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Do whatever will bring home life more secure and harmonious. Strive for happiness.

Dec. 22 to Jan. 20: Obtain the data you need in the day and make good use of it. A good day uniting successfully with others.

Jan. 21 to Feb. 19: You have good ideas to add to your present income and should put operation without delay. Be happy.

Feb. 20 to Mar. 20: Go after whatever will bring personal life more as you want it to be. Be active feel better.

REN BRIDGE

by CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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Safety-belt system



These photographs illustrate an integral safety-belt system for children of all ages, exhibited at an auto mechanics fair in Frankfurt, West Germany. An extra belt secures the shoulders even when the child wriggles sideways. Young passengers age six to ten sit in their own bucket seat designed to ensure that the hip belt fits properly. A special back rest is provided for children age three to six. Above the shoulder a shock absorber can be fitted to the belt to lessen the effect of forward motion in a crash. (Dad photo)

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EWLEH
YORFE
TUSHIA
REGUOM



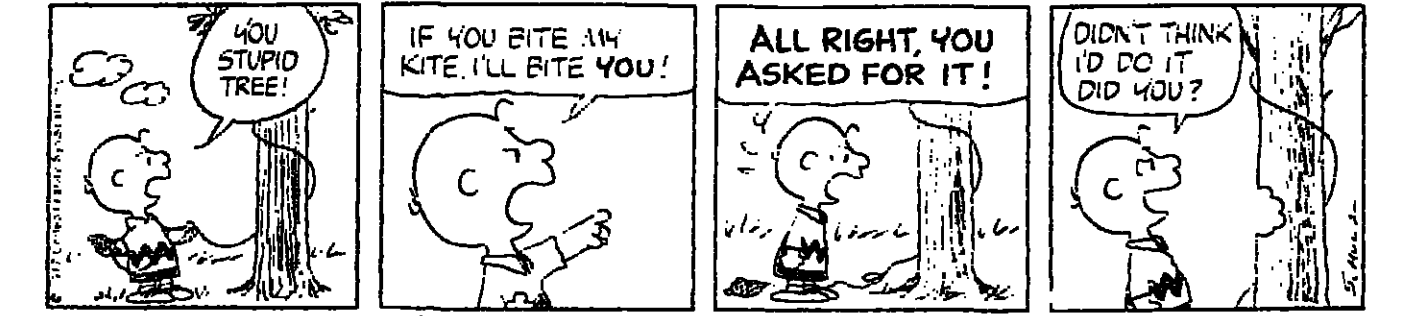
They'll never see the inside of OUR house!

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Jumbles: LARVA QUAKE BENUMB SHERRY
Answer: What you might find in "Hamlet," the way it's often performed these days—A "HAM"

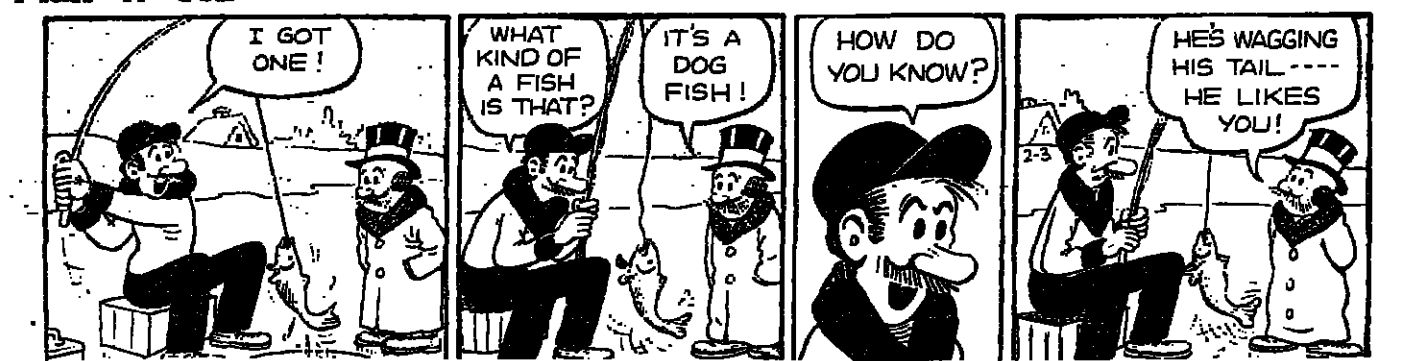
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Flinstones



JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3:

5:30 Quran
5:45 Cartoons
6:00 Children's programme
6:30 Sindbad
7:10 Return to Peyton Place
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic Series
9:30 Arabic programme
10:15 Dallah
11:00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 4:

6:30 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:30 Comedy
9:10 The Odeon Lane
10:30 News in English
10:15 Dallah

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning show
(6:00) News headlines
10:03 Morning show
10:30 Faces and Places
11:00 Sign off
12:00 Sign on and news headlines
12:03 Radiotheque
12:15 News summary
12:45 News
13:03 Radiotheque

14:00 News bulletin
14:10 Music
14:30 In Concert
15:00 Concert hour
10:00 News summary
16:03 Easy listening
16:30 Old favourites
17:00 Country music
18:00 News Summary
18:03 Play of the week
19:00 News bulletin
19:10 News Reports
19:30 Sign off

BBC RADIO

GMT
04:00 Newscast
04:30 Nature Notebook
04:45 Financial News, Reflections
05:00 News, 24 Hours
05:30 Sarah Ward
05:45 World Today
06:00 Newscast
06:30 Off the Record
07:00 News, 24 Hours
07:30 Sarah Ward
07:45 Weekend 12 X
08:00 News, Reflections
09:00 News, Press Review
09:15 World Today
09:30 Financial News
09:40 Look Ahead
09:45 Sports Report
10:15 This One
10:30 Sports International
11:00 News, News about Britain
11:15 Letter from London
11:25 Scotland this Week
11:30 Take it or leave it
12:00 Radio Newscast
12:15 John Peel
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News, 24 hours
13:30 Network U.K.
13:45 Captain Adventure

14:30 Talkabout
15:00 Radio Newscast
15:15 Outlook
16:00 News, Commentary
16:15 Claude Aru
16:45 World Today
17:00 News
17:00 Scotland this Week
17:15 Thirty Minute Theatre
17:45 Sports Round-up
18:00 News, News about Britain
18:15 Radio Newscast
18:30 The Farming World
19:00 Outlook, News Summary
19:30 World Market
19:45 Financial News
20:00 News, 24 Hours
20:30 The Best of Nichols and May
21:00 World Radio Club
21:15 The Pleasure of Music
22:00 News, World Today
22:25 Financial News
22:35 Scotland this Week, Reflections
22:45 Sports Round-up
23:00 News, Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT

03:30 The Breakfast Show
06:30 News, Pop music, features, listeners' questions
17:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analysis
17:30 Dallah
18:00 Special English: news, feature
18:30 News Music USA

ARRIVALS:

6:30 Bangkok, Bahrain (RJ/GF)
11:50 Kuwait
12:40 Riyadh (SDI)
13:30 New York
17:30 Madrid, Athens
17:45 Copenhagen, Vienna
18:00 London, Paris
18:15 Rome
18:20 Cairo (EA)
18:25 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
19:00 Beirut (MEA)
19:00 Baghdad (IA)
21:05 Frankfurt
21:30 Dhahran
22:50 Doha, Moscow (RJ/GF)
23:39 Bahrain, Bangkok
03:00 Cairo (EA)

AMMAN AIRPORT

DEPARTURES:

7:40 Damascus, London (BA)
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
9:00 Frankfurt
9:30 Rome
11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
13:40 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)
19:00 Cairo
19:15 Damascus
20:25 Cairo (EA)
20:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ/GF)
20:15 Baghdad (IA)
21:00 Jeddah
21:30 Dhahran
22:50 Doha, Moscow (RJ/GF)
23:39 Bahrain, Bangkok
03:00 Cairo (EA)

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:

Amman: Fayed Jalilgani (24027)
Semi Ad (13724)
Irbid: Jaber Moutash (3311)
Zarqa: Farah Agabawa (81023)
Tadris: Firas (23427)
Al Ula: Al Ula (23050)
Bamash (56736)

Burns (71141)

Al Shari (56616)
Pharmacies: Amman: Nimrokh
Fara (63938)
Basham (30955)
Rahma (11254)
Irbid: Shadi
Zarqa: Al Hadeha

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre... Tel. 41520
British Council... 36147-8
French Cultural Centre... 37009
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)... 36181-2
Municipal water service (emergency)... 37111-3
Police headquarters... 36191
Najdah towing patrol rescue police (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency... 21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA)... 55205
Jordan Television... 73111
Radio, English Section... 74124
Fire station... 19
Fire headquarters... 22090

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Ambulance (government)... Tel. 75111
Civil defence (rescue)... 36147-8
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)... 36181-2
Municipal water service (emergency)... 37111-3
Police headquarters... 36191
Najdah towing patrol rescue police (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency... 21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA)... 55205
Jordan Television... 73111
Radio, English Section... 74124
Fire station... 19
Fire headquarters... 22090

CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

Al Hamra Theatre... Tel. 226-448
Al Sha'bi Art Gallery... 228-527
American Centre... 352-362
Arab Cultural Centre... 333-727
Bulgarian Cultural Centre... 357-901
British Cultural Centre... 333-594
Deutsch Demokratische Republik Cultural Centre... 333-932
French Cultural Centre... 333-684
Kabkab Theatre... 222-016
National Museum... 114-854
Soviet Cultural Centre... 222-680
Spanish Cultural Centre... 334-619
Zaharra Public Library... 111-318
West German Cultural Institute... 224-954

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

Ambulance (government)... Tel. 90
Chamber of Commerce... 118-339
Electric Power Co. (emergency)... 222-897
Fire headquarters... 91
Information... 9597
Municipal water service... 115-900
Time (in Arabic)... 99

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Rhodesia reports bombing mission inside Angola

SALISBURY, Feb. 26 (R) — Rhodesian planes today bombed a big Rhodesian guerrilla training camp in Angola, military headquarters announced.

Informed sources said the camp was close to the eastern Angolan administrative town of Luso, about 300 kilometres from Angola's border with Zambia and 1,000 kilometres from the closest part of Rhodesia.

It was the furthest into black Africa that Rhodesia had carried its war against the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance.

It was also the first time the Rhodesians had announced an attack into any black state other than the country's immediate neighbours—Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana.

Military headquarters said in a terse communique only that the raid took place at 0610 GMT

today, that it was successful with all planes returning safely, and that it was against the Zimbabwe Peoples Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) of Patriotic Front joint leader Joshua Nkomo.

Informed Salisbury sources said the military had long known of a ZIPRA training camp at Luso, from information gleaned from captured guerrillas. Young Rhodesians would be taken there from Botswana for training before passing into Zambia and then on to Rhodesia, they said.

The military believed insurgents had received instruction from Cuban, East German and Soviet personnel in Angola, the sources said.

Luso lies on the trans-Africa Benguela Railway and was the site of several important clashes between rival nationalist movements in the Angolan civil war of 1975-76.

Over the past ten days Rhodesian planes have attacked alleged guerrilla bases in Zambia three times and in Mozambique once. Rhodesia has announced 18 major raids into neighbouring black African states in the past two-and-a-half years, claiming to have hit 50 guerrilla bases with at least 4,000 insurgents killed.

Rhodesian military supreme Lieutenant-General Peter Walls recently promised the Patriotic Front a "tragedy" if it tried to smash the one-man, one-vote elections in April. General Walls said his forces would operate outside the country as well as inside to guard the election.



Unique experiment links Egyptian mummies

LONDON—These male mummies, probably Ptolemaic from the time of Cleopatra in the first century BC, have been shown to be related as the result of a unique experiment between a British and West German museum. X-rays, which have been taken at a Liverpool hospital in northwest England, along with several other methods of dating, have shown the same congenital spine defects in one mummy from the Liverpool Museum (right) and in another from Hildesheim, West Germany. It is the first time that two mummies found on different parts of Egypt have been found to be

related. This joint experiment was arranged after Dr. Arne Eggebrecht, director of the Hildesheim Museum, learnt in a scientific journal of the existence of a mummy in the Liverpool Museum with a similar spine abnormality to one in his own museum. Professor Ronald Harrison, professor of Anatomy at Liverpool University said, "We are breaking new ground here. This is the first time that non-royal mummies have been subjected to tests of this sort and the first time Ptolemaic remains have been studied using these techniques." (COI photo)

Libya reportedly ups oil price with Venezuela soon to follow

BAHRAIN, Feb. 26 (R)—The Libyan Jamahiriya has increased the price of all its crude oil, irrespective of quality, by \$6.8 a barrel, the well-informed Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported today.

The oil industry journal also said Venezuela's fuel oil prices will rise by between \$2.10 and \$2.51 a barrel from March 1. MEES said the Libyan price increase of a little under five per cent was surprisingly modest in contrast to recent increases by Abu Dhabi and Qatar of between \$8.4 and \$10.2 a barrel.

The Libyan increases, which still keep prices far below open market levels, became effective from Feb. 21 until the end of the

first quarter of this year.

Oil prices have been moving forward since Iran, the world's largest exporter after Saudi Arabia, stopped exports last Dec. 26 because of the revolution which toppled the monarchy in the country.

Iranian exports averaged five million barrels a day, and the effects of this shortfall on the market and prices is to be discussed at a consultative conference of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) ministers in Geneva on March 26.

MEES said that traditionally, Venezuelan fuel oil prices have been set monthly for the whole of the month concerned. But this time it has been made clear that

prices may also be revised during March.

Venezuela's state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela, following in the footsteps of its Iraqi and Algerian counterparts, has called in customers for discussions on an increase in crude oil prices, MEES said.

These national companies have so far indicated that they plan to hold off crude price rises until the start of the second quarter. "But observers are wondering just how long these and other OPEC members will be able to withstand the growing momentum towards higher prices now," MEES said.

Chinese trade unions seek greater power

HONG KONG, Feb. 26 (R)—Chinese trade unions have called for increased powers including the right to strike to force improvements in working conditions, the New China News Agency reported today.

It quoted the All-China Federation of Trade Unions as saying in a recent circular that "trade unions should support workers who refuse to work when improvements which can be made are not made."

It said trade unions should also criticise management if it disregarded workers' safety and health and could demand its dismissal if improvements were not made.

The circular said trade unions should have the right to "refuse signing on workers and forbid the operation of any newly built or expanded factory and mining enterprise which does not have the necessary labour protection facilities."

World News Briefs

U.K. hopes to continue talks with China

PEKING, Feb. 26 (R)—Britain told China yesterday it still hoped negotiations to continue between Peking and the British Harrier vertical-takeoff jet on China's possible purchase of the aircraft. Informed British sources said British Industries Minister Eric Varley told Vice-Premier Wang Zhen after he had discussed a wide-ranging trade pact. The sources suggested that Varley made the comment, first given by Prime Minister Callaghan after the recent Gdansk summit, to indicate doubts that the Chinese might have about the future of negotiations after Peking's military operation in Vietnam. It was the first formal approval given to China to continue with Harrier plane's maker, British Aerospace. The proposed sale, criticised by the Soviet Union, but the British sources said, was commented yesterday that China and Britain were "working together".

Carter decides on General Haig's successor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (R)—President Carter has appointed Army Chief of Staff General Bernard Rogers as his successor in Europe. Government officials said today, General Rogers will replace General Alexander Haig as present commander, who will retire on June 1, the sources said. Government sources said President Carter is expected to name General Rogers next week, and NATO's Defense Committee is expected to act on the nomination the same day. NATO commander, General Rogers will head 4.1 million troops.

Newest Soviet carrier leaves Black Sea

ISTANBUL, Feb. 26 (R)—The Soviet Union's newest aircraft carrier, the 45,000-ton Minsk, passed through the Bosporus and the Bosphorus straits yesterday on its way to the Mediterranean Sea, but Port Authority announced. The Authority said it was the first time the Minsk had left the Black Sea, where it is based. The Minsk was not known. The Soviet Union has two other carriers, the Moskva and the Kiev. Eyewitnesses said the six helicopters visible on board as it passed Istanbul were the first since the Port Authority said Turkey accepted the Minsk as a "helicopter-carrying cruiser" to avoid possible difficulties of interpretation of the 1936 Montreux Convention prohibiting of warships through the straits. Turkey is a member of NATO.

Khmer Rouge Radio reports more clashes

BANGKOK, Feb. 26 (R)—Khmer Rouge forces loyal to the Pol Pot regime launched attacks against Vietnamese troops in separate areas of Kampuchea (Cambodia) last week. Khmer Rouge Radio reported today. The attacks were three clashes around the capital Phnom Penh on Wednesday. Vietnamese troops were killed, it said. The radio, believed to be from southern China, backs Pol Pot, overthrown by a Vietnamese offensive last month. His troops have been fighting a guerrilla war since. Vietnam does not admit it has any troops in Cambodia.

Carter admits dangers in curbing inflation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (R)—President Carter acknowledged his administration's failure to curb inflation could make him term president, according to an interview published yesterday. He said that inflation was America's major problem. Mr. Carter said the Washington Post's Parade magazine he could attempt to control political factions by his efforts to control the problem. He said failure to solve inflation could cost him the presidency in the election, much as the late President Lyndon Johnson's career was ended by his inability to end the Vietnam war. "I always thought possibly," Mr. Carter was quoted as saying, "it is easy thing to do because we do disappoint many powerful constituencies." He reiterated his call for cooperation from voters in the administration's fight against inflation, saying, "I believe it is the best approach to inflation and to the general health of the economy is to form a partnership and a mutual community."

Salesgirl rewards Papal blessing with kiss

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 26 (R)—Vittoria Ianni was married Pope yesterday—and she thanked him with a kiss. Pope John Paul II married the 22-year-old roadworker's daughter and her husband, Mario Maltese, 24, in a fairy tale ceremony in the Vatican's Chapel. Then the bride turned to the Pope and said: "Did you?" "And why not?" replied a smiling Pope John Paul II. A salesgirl in a Rome souvenir shop, asked the Pope to kiss her when he visited a nativity pageant before Christmas. To her he said yes. Yesterday, under the splendour of Michelangelo's coes, the Sistine Choir sang and the Pope wished the couple blessing of many children. The Pope also gave them a gold leather-bound bible engraved in gold letters and an envelope undisclosed sum of money. Only nobility and relatives of the normally rank a Papal blessing at their weddings.

Campaigning intensifies as Spain's elections draw near

MADRID, Feb. 26 (R)—In its centenary year, the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) is pushing hard to get a 36-year-old lawyer elected prime minister on Thursday and return the party to government for the first time in 40 years.

"One-hundred years of fairness and honesty," declare the PSOE election posters beside photographs of Pablo Iglesias who founded the party in 1879 and of the present youthful leader Felipe Gonzalez.

The latest opinion poll to be published put the socialists just ahead of the ruling Democratic Centre Union (UCD) in the race for Thursday's poll—the first election since Spain's new democratic constitution was adopted last December.

"On March 1 there will be a change of historical proportions," Mr. Gonzalez told more than 15,000 supporters at a Madrid bullring. "The right will be defeated by the force of reason, not by the reason of force."

Mr. Gonzalez reached Madrid last night after a typical day in the whirlwind campaign which has earned him the nickname "Hurricane Felipe."

Throughout the day, Mr. Gonzalez repeated the attacks on Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez's UCD Party which have become the cornerstone of the socialist

campaign. "Unemployment has risen, new homes are missing, school places are missing, hospitals are missing—and the UCD says it has fulfilled its promises," he said. He added: "There are good conservatives and bad conservatives. We've been landed with the worst of all because they have conserved Spain as the most unjust country in Europe."

As Mr. Gonzalez criss-crossed the country, his chief opponent, Prime Minister Suarez, prepared a televised speech to close his campaign tomorrow night.

In weekend visits to Barcelona, Valencia and the Mediterranean island of Majorca, Mr. Suarez repeated that the UCD aimed to govern alone for four more years. To do so, Mr. Suarez needs 11 more seats for an absolute majority of 176 in the Congress (lower house of parliament).

The thrust of Mr. Suarez's campaign has been directed through television, radio and the national press—under the slogans "Said and done. The UCD fulfils its promises."

The appearance on television of government ministers, who are all UCD candidates, has drawn angry protests from the left. "The UCD is using the television screen as if it was a private hunting ground belonging to one of its rural 'caciques' (squires)," Mr. Gonzalez

said last night.

The government has also come under fire for deferring municipal elections which have not been held since the death of General Francisco Franco in 1975. The municipal polls, which the left is expected to win, have been called for next April 3.

"The UCD has failed to bring democracy into people's homes because the town halls of Spain remain in the hands of men appointed in Madrid," Mr. Gonzalez said.

But the socialist leader's sharpest irony was reserved for Mr. Suarez himself. Mr. Gonzalez recalled that three years ago he was elected secretary-general of a Socialist Party which was clandestine and persecuted.

Three years ago Mr. Suarez was also secretary-general of a party, he said. It was General Franco's state party, the National Movement. "And now they (the UCD) try to teach us lessons in democracy," he said.

N. America to see eclipse of sun

TORONTO, Feb. 26 (R)—Clouds today threatened to blot out the last total eclipse of the sun to be seen in North America this century.

Tens of thousands of amateur and professional enthusiasts have

flocked into the crescent-shaped band across the northwestern United States and central Canada where a total eclipse was expected to be visible from about mid-morning.

But varying amounts of cloud were forecast for much of the observation area, stretching from Oregon and Washington states to the Canadian Arctic. It could wipe out the spectacular effect of the moon moving across the sun. Elsewhere in the continent partial eclipses will be visible, weather permitting.

Clouds will not completely wreck a major research project mounted by U.S., Canadian and Swiss scientists at the small community of Red Lake, in western Ontario province.

They are using rockets to conduct a series of tests, mainly to measure what happens to the complicated structure of the earth's upper atmosphere when

the sun's massive radiation is suddenly switched off and then on again during the eclipse. Only gales or a major equipment failure can disrupt that programme.

Some astronomers, plus a Japanese television crew, have rented aircraft to take them above the clouds and give them a clear view, particularly of the sun's fiery outer gases, or corona, that can be seen during a total eclipse.

For those on the ground, unable to chase the eclipse by air, the eerie effect the sun being extinguished will last less than three minutes. Hotel accommodation in and near the 320-kilometre wide eclipse zone is fully booked.

In the United States, parts of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota lie in the path of the eclipse, which will then pass through Canada's Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec provinces before heading through Greenland.

Switzerland's economic self-discipline

By Norris Willatt

LUGANO — At a time when several other countries are resorting to measures to control wages and prices — so-called incomes policies — Switzerland is abandoning them. The Swiss Office for the Control of Prices, Wages and Profits was officially abolished on Dec. 31, 1978.

The official explanation was that it no longer had anything to do. Some Swiss contest that conclusion but the statistics, at any rate, seem to confirm the government's reasoning. At the present time, both wages and prices are more or less stable.

Profits, however, are on the decline both because of recession at home and the loss of foreign sales due to the high value of the Swiss franc in relation to the currencies of Switzerland's chief trading partners, such as West Germany, the United States, Britain and France.

On the prices front, the Swiss are in comparatively comfortable situation of knowing that most prices have levelled off in recent months, while some have actually fallen. Thus, at the end of 1978, the index of wholesale prices, at 142.1, was actually a few points down from the figure of a year earlier, 145.5. In November the consumer price index was only 0.8 of a point up from a base of September, 1977.

The consensus is that prices will

rise only modestly again during 1979, so that the inflation rate will not exceed the one to two per cent a year which has characterised the past few years (compared with rates of close to ten per cent for the United Kingdom and the United States).

In fact, this achievement of holding down the cost of living owes comparatively little to the now defunct Office of Price Control. This did exert some influence, but mainly from a psychological viewpoint. Its very existence may have induced some businessmen to exercise price restraint.

This is the approach favoured in Switzerland, which relies heavily on persuasion to get results. In any case, the control office's powers were restricted by its resources. It was virtually a one man bureau, manned in turn by two men, Mr. Leo Schürmann and Mr. Leon Schlumpf. They were assisted by a "consultative commission" of 15, made up of representatives of employers, the trade unions and consumer organisations.

Their main function was to invite complaints from the public of alleged excessive prices or price increases. During the six years that they did this they received a total of 35,000 complaints, all of which were investigated. But the investigation was followed by intervention in only a few cases.

Thus, the price controller at different times rescinded price

The Swiss have recently dismantled their office for controlling prices and wages. They don't need it because when they saw their inflation figure reach 12 per cent the Swiss decided for themselves to hold back their wage demands, and their pay increases will average about two percent this year.

increases on milk, bread and flour, certain pharmaceuticals; restricted proposed increases for the supply of electricity, the overhaul and maintenance of central heating oil tanks, and on motor tyres; rolled back an increase in the price of petrol. Landlords were instructed to reduce rents when a fall in interest rates made mortgages cheaper.

But it was all along a David and Goliath battle. The Price Control Office—its intervention in the fields of wages and profits was nominal—would hardly have kept prices so tightly under control without the help of other, more powerful forces in the Swiss economy. Most compelling of these was the decision of the people as a whole to moderate their demands for higher wages and salaries.

At the time, at the start of 1975, when the government created the office of "Mr. Price", as Messrs. Schürmann and Schlumpf were known in turn, inflation in Switzerland had peaked out at around 12 per cent. This figure shocked a prudent and thrifty population, which closed ranks to remedy it. The outcome was that the average rate of pay increase, which was 12.2 per cent in 1974, has been moderated to around two per cent a year for the past few years.

The forecast for 1979 is for more of the same, with estimates for pay increases during the year ranging from 0.5 per cent (Swiss Employers' Association) to close to three per cent (Swiss Economic Research Institute). In any case, there is no danger of an explosion on the wages front in Switzerland.

Nor does it seem likely that prices will take off with the ending of controls. Several organisations representing the interests of consumers have announced that they intend to take over from officialdom: The Romande (French Swiss) Federation of Consumers; the Popular Movement of Families; the Swiss Trade Union Federation.

The Romande Federation of Consumers is even now collecting signatures for a popular initiative to "prevent abuses in setting prices". It has already obtained 90,000, enough to ensure that the proposal will go to a popular referendum which seems likely to approve it.

In any event, circumstances may help to keep prices down. While some domestic prices are still rising slightly, the prices of some Swiss imports are even falling because of the revaluation of the Swiss franc. Switzerland imports much of its food, and most of its raw materials and semi-finished products for industry. The level of the import price index therefore has a considerable impact on the consumer price index.

According to the Swiss Credit Bank, during the first 11 months of 1978 the index of imported goods showed a decline of more than ten per cent compared with the same period a year earlier.

This meant that Swiss housewives were able to buy a number

of food products, from cocoa to oranges and apples, less. Swiss industrialists, less for a range of materials, certain kinds of lumber, to semi-finished iron and tin products.

It is true that the Swiss franc was at a time having certain consequences, making more expensive, resulting in a slowing of output, and consequently time working. Some work even being laid off.

At the end of 1978, 12,000 Swiss were entirely without jobs, suggesting that the rise to 20,000 by the end of 1979. Again, people in Switzerland are not so happy as they once were. The jobless rate of 20,000 is equal to only 0.3 per cent of the entire Swiss population of 6.3 million.

No other industrial country has such a low unemployment level. Countries such as Britain, with an inflation rate of one to two per cent, like an economic miracle. The Swiss have achieved it by their own Official action through the Price Control Office, but at a fringe benefit.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Two Soviet cosmonauts prepare to link up with Salyut-6 space station

MOSCOW, Feb. 26 (R)—Two Soviet cosmonauts circled the earth today on their way to a link-up with the orbiting sky laboratory Salyut-6. The mission was apparently keyed to Soviet efforts to perfect a shuttle system eventually leading to the first permanently manned space station.

Soyuz 32 piloted by Mission Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Vladimir Lyakhov, 37, and Flight Engineer Valery Ryumin, 39, began circling the earth shortly after takeoff from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in central Asia at 1154 GMT yesterday. It follows the course of previous expeditions, the new craft will link up with Salyut-6 tomorrow. The two men will be the seventh crew to visit the station.

An official report of the launch—Russia's 38th manned craft—suggested that overhauling Salyut's docking and living facilities would be among the cosmonauts' main tasks while in space.

A shuttle system depends on the smooth running of Soyuz transport crafts, Salyut stations and supply ships as well as on the physical and psychological stamina of men who can expect to spend several months in space. Salyut-6 provides a home for crew and a base from which they can carry out detailed scientific experiments and photograph the earth's surface.

In its 16 months in orbit, Salyut-6 has taken four deliveries of fuel, been visited by six crews and been manned for a total of eight months. The Soviet News Agency Tass said yesterday its performance had been effective beyond all records.

There has been no indication so far whether Messrs. Lyakhov and Ryumin will try to break the space endurance record of 140 days set by their predecessors Valdimir Kovalyov and Alexander Ivanchenkov last November.